

even people with good credit can't get homes, can't get home loans, can't get car loans, our tax dollars are hard at work making sure foreign countries get helped first.

Instead of giving billions of dollars worth of tax breaks and incentives to American companies who manufacture American products and hire American workers, our government has sided with foreign countries instead of being on the side of the American worker.

To compound the problem, the United States has record trade deficits with the rest of the world. So while our government punishes American companies who actually make things with high taxes, burdensome regulations, petty environmental restrictions and unfair trade laws, foreign countries are getting American tax dollars to invest in their business infrastructure so they can take away more American jobs during an American recession.

We allowed Bank of America to give \$7 billion in taxpayer money to China, \$7 billion in Americans' money to communist China, so they can build up their military and steal American jobs. That's criminal.

The AIG bonus scandal is a big deal. The Treasury losing track of where the bailout money is going is appalling. But it's too late to just ask where the money's going or to try to get back the taxpayer-subsidized bonuses, although those are good starts.

□ 1645

What we need to do now is stop spending. Just stop. No more TARP. No more stimulus. No cap-and-trade energy tax on small businesses, and surely, no more bailing out foreign countries like China and India while we spend and tax and borrow our way into oblivion.

I respectfully ask the President of the United States to put the checkbook down.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of Maryland's finest public servants, Christine Sarbanes—a woman of grace, passion and compassion.

She was a teacher, an activist and a volunteer who gave selflessly to her community, to Maryland, to the Nation, and to the greater world community. Her belief that every individual had the potential to be great fueled her passion for teaching, for spreading literacy worldwide and for providing access to higher learning for each and every student who had a desire to learn.

Christine Sarbanes was a dedicated mother, a full-time educator and both a political partner and adviser to her husband, Senator Paul Sarbanes.

For many of us, each job alone would constitute enough to leave a legacy, but for Christine, she chose to go above and beyond as a community servant, as an active board member for a number of community and international organizations, and as a tireless fundraiser for causes near to her heart.

I would like to extend the thoughts and prayers of my family and constituents to Senator Sarbanes, to my colleague, Congressman JOHN SARBANES, and to the entire Sarbanes family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOODLATTE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak from this side of the aisle because it is where Paul Sarbanes would have stood.

When I came here almost 17 years ago, I would see Senator Sarbanes at social functions with this very attractive brunette on his arm, and I said to myself: Paul married well, didn't he? Then Christine came to my office as an advocate for schools and teachers, and I was wowed. When she left, I said to myself: Paul not only married well, he married up. Then, one day, my wife, when I came home, told me that at a spouse's event that day she had talked to Christine and that Christine told her that they had decided to retire because, as she told my wife—and Mr. Speaker, I am going to have a little trouble with this—they wanted to retire while they could still both climb steps.

I regret very much that Christine had far too few years to climb those steps with Paul.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a Marylander in honor of another Marylander, Christine Sarbanes, and in honor of her service and of her legacy to the State of Maryland and to the people of the

Fourth Congressional District, which I represent.

I did not know Christine Sarbanes in the way that you know a person. I knew her as a public person. I first met Christine Sarbanes at an elementary school at an event, and she didn't even know I was at the back of the school, but what I observed of Christine Sarbanes was her gentleness and tenacity and her love of education and her love of children.

I think, in some ways, you know a person sometimes by the people around them—by their children, by their spouses—and so we know Christine Sarbanes by her husband, our beloved Senator Paul Sarbanes, by her son and our colleague—JOHN SARBANES—and her other children. We see in them the gentleness and the smarts and the tenacity and the passion that was Christine Sarbanes. So it is with a heavy heart that we celebrate Christine Sarbanes' legacy.

I said to JOHN SARBANES yesterday, as he mentioned that it is difficult to know how much you miss a person until they are gone, that when one loses a parent—and I know about the loss of a parent—that the sadness of today becomes a joy of tomorrow when you remember a smile, when you remember something that happened when you were growing up, and it touches your heart in a different way.

So I wish for former Senator Paul Sarbanes, for JOHN SARBANES and for the entire Sarbanes family that there will be days down the line when they will remember Christine Sarbanes with that joy and with a little bit more lightness of their hearts than they are experiencing today.

DOD REPORT ON CHINA'S MILITARY POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today, the Department of Defense released its annual report to Congress on China's military power.

The report released is an important reminder of why the Congressional China Caucus, the Congress and the American people should continue to monitor not only the expansion of China's military power but the way they exercise judgment in the use of it and other elements of national influence.

China's continuing buildup of advanced cruise missiles that can target aircraft carriers and other ships, its 260-ship Navy as compared to our 283-ship Navy, and its continued arm shipments to unstable countries demonstrates a global focus rather than a regional one.

Regrettably, over the past year, several incidents have threatened the strength of U.S.-Sino relations. In the last year, the FBI has stated that China has the most aggressive espionage program facing our Nation. U.S.

authorities continue to investigate whether PRC officials copied the contents of a government computer during a trip to China by the Secretary of Commerce, and just this month, Senator NELSON's office reported three separate instances of cyber attacks from China, which follow multiple instances last year.

In addition, a routine Thanksgiving holiday port call by a U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Kitty Hawk, to Hong Kong was inexplicably cancelled at the eleventh hour. Most recently, five Chinese vessels harassed an unarmed U.S. naval ship.

Mr. Speaker, this House has refused to respond to that attack as yet. I am troubled at the prospect for miscalculation or unnecessary escalation of one of these situations if China does not act in a transparent and responsible manner that is expected of a rising global power.

For that reason, I introduced H. Con. Res. 72 with Congressional China Caucus cochair MADELEINE BORDALLO, urging China to avoid necessary escalations that could harm U.S.-China relations and to condemn their attack on our unarmed U.S. naval ship, but so far, the leadership of the House has not found time to allow that resolution to come to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, it bothers me that today, when China had a proposal for a new global currency to replace the dollar, that Secretary of Treasury Geithner said that he was open to the proposal and that White House economic adviser Austin Goolsbee declined to rule it out.

Mr. Speaker, if we don't know our positions on these issues, we are inviting the Chinese to push us further and further. The future course in U.S.-China relations hinges on China's ability to provide the necessary transparency with regard to its military buildup and cyber warfare capabilities. Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will continue to push for that kind of transparency.

HONORING ARCHBISHOP JOHN CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable institution that stands as a center of academic and spiritual excellence in the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania. That the motto of this school is "Pro Deo et Patria" tells us much about its tradition and about the wisdom of its founders. That the school nickname is the Patriots tells us even more about the values and principles of its students, faculty, administrators, parents, and alumni. However, in the past year, this school has also established a new and unprecedented standard for athletic excellence. I am speaking of the community that is Archbishop John Carroll High School of the Philadelphia Catholic League.

Last weekend, both the boys' and girls' basketball teams won their respective Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Athletic Association State championships. In that remarkable feat, the Archbishop Carroll coaches, players, trainers, parents, families, and fans fulfilled a covenant to one another. Well before the season began, they pledged that, although other teams might seem to have more advantage, none would ever out-work, out-think, or out-cheer the Patriots of Archbishop Carroll.

The people of the Philadelphia region are renowned for their knowledge of sports, and it is well established that championships are not won in a tournament. They are the products of thousands of hours of practice, conditioning and study long before the first game. Thereafter, championships are won by the team that establishes the strongest bonds of trust and respect among one another and the ability to overcome every adversity. Throughout a grueling season of 62 games, the young men and women of both teams showed that the physical and mental preparation, teamwork and, above all, character are rewarded.

Archbishop John Carroll High School offers faith- and values-based education under the leadership of President Reverend William E. Grogan and Principal David R. Dickens that confirms the wisdom of the great John Wooden, who remarked, "I always tried to make clear that basketball is not the ultimate. It is of small importance in comparison to the total life we live. There is only one kind of life that truly wins, and that is the one that places faith in the hands of the Savior. Until that is done, we are on an aimless course that runs in circles and goes nowhere."

Mr. Speaker, the young men and women we honor today are on the right course. They are on course in a journey to lead, to teach, to solve difficult problems in the arts, sciences, businesses, and most importantly, to raise wonderful children who will carry on the proud traditions of Archbishop John Carroll High School.

To the players of these magnificent teams and their classmates, this Chamber and our Nation wish you Godspeed on your journey. We are proud to know you, and look forward to even greater challenges and victories that await you.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING PMA GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, in just a few minutes, I will introduce a privileged resolution, the purpose of which is to have the House Ethics Committee look into the relationship between the PMA Group—a lobbying firm that has been raided by the FBI—earmarks re-

ceived by the raided firm for their clients and the source and timing of campaign contributions made by the raided firm to Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, this will be the sixth resolution that I have introduced on the same topic. I want to stress again that this is not a partisan resolution. These resolutions have not been introduced at the behest of any Republican or of any Democrat. No Member of Congress is mentioned in these resolutions. No party is mentioned either. This is a problem that this House simply must address.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that, as long as Members of Congress have the ability, which we currently have, to award no-bid contracts to individuals or organizations—nonprofit or for profit—then you are going to have problems, and that is what we are seeing with the investigations that are going on with the PMA Group.

The PMA Group is a powerhouse lobbying firm that last year had revenues in excess of \$17 million. That firm, as I have mentioned, has been raided by the FBI, and is now in the process of disbanding. By the end of this month, in just a few days, it will be gone, from \$17 million—boom—overnight to nothing because somebody got on to them and because they were able to get earmarks for their clients who should not have been awarded in this way.

We simply should not have the ability here in Congress to award no-bid contracts to anyone, let alone those who turn around and make big contributions back to our congressional campaigns. That is what we are asking the Ethics Committee to look into.

Right now, the Ethics Committee has issued guidance, saying that, when you want to request an earmark, you have to sign a certification saying that you have no financial interest in the earmark that you are signing—that you don't have a spouse working for the firm or that money is not somehow going to come back to you. The Ethics Committee has also said that that does not include campaign contributions.

□ 1700

Yet we have examples of just thousands of dollars, hundreds of thousands of dollars coming back to those who have requested these earmarks from the firms who got the earmarks, the lobbying firms who requested the earmarks for the client and from political action committees established by the lobbying firm. That doesn't reflect well on the House.

As I said, this is not a Republican problem or a Democratic problem. This is a problem that all of us have here, and it needs to be addressed by the bipartisan Ethics Committee. That's the purpose of the resolution that I will offer in just a minute.

As I mentioned, this is the sixth one. The five prior to this have been tabled. I don't know what the fate of this one will be. Perhaps it will be tabled as well. But if it is, we need to come back